



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2006

PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Chair Rachel Orange noted that due to the lack of quorum, the meeting unofficially began at 7:05 p.m.; there were only five members present at this time. The agenda was taken out of order to hear reports from those present representing the City Services and Elected Officials.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Gregory Pentecost, Gladys Hayes-Gerlich, Traver Carroll.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darlene Nakayama, Joshua Stanbro, Erin Sonsona, Doug Wong, Carolyn Walther, Owen Nakao, Michael Weinstein.

GUESTS: Eric Takamura (Mayor's Representative), Stephanie Kimura (Board of Water Supply), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara; Sgt. Eric Egami, Lt. Alex Ahlo, Maj. Mark Nakagawa, Officer Jason Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department); Capt. Bernard Paloma and Fire Fighter Daryl Mau (Honolulu Fire Department), Celia Main-Andersen, Julia Allen, Kapono Ryan (Chaminade University), Dave Gonzales (Olelo Videographer), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter Daryl Mau reported:

- 1 structure and 6 rubbish fires; 20 medical and 7 miscellaneous calls.
- Fire Safety Tip: Brush fire season is here, so remember to maintain a 30-foot wide clearing in between any structure and vegetation. Recent rains may have overgrown vegetation in some breaks.

With Independence Day around the corner, consider leaving fireworks to the professionals and enjoy one of the many fireworks displays around town. If you use fireworks, follow all warnings and instructions. Young children should never be given fireworks. Older children should only use fireworks under the direct supervision of an adult. Have a happy and safe Independence Day celebration!

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Many of the rubbish fires are dumpster type fires and the occasionally agricultural burns. Other fires included trash cans at Palolo Park.
2. In response to the inquiry regarding the fire at the UH Lab School, Capt. Paloma indicated the building was built in 1930 and it went up fast; and also due to pending investigations, Paloma was unable to elaborate further, except to say that the alarm systems were in place.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Major Mark Nakagawa, as of March 19, the new Commander of District 7 – East Honolulu. He introduced himself and will be stopping in from time to time at this Board meeting. District 7 will be focusing on: a) safe traffic movement during the morning and afternoon rush traffic hours, speeding, and graffiti tagging.

Questions and concerns followed:

1. Hayes complimented District 7 officers for their efforts in the valley, however, she is now concerned about the increased number of abandoned vehicles in Keanu Street. Pentecost agreed that on 10th Avenue eight vehicles were called in and towed within a month and a half; a message that is clearly stating that these vehicles are either stolen or abandoned.



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2. In response to Shiraki's inquiry about a way to bring down the speed limit, Maj. Nakagawa said this might require a discussion with HPD's Traffic Division and the Department of Transportation Services.
3. While it seems to deter speeding, especially in the back of the valley on Waiomao Street, a visual deterrence really makes a big difference; Pentecost encouraged more speed monitoring.
4. In reference to graffiti, Orange wondered if signs plastered on telephone poles are considered graffiti. At times, Nakagawa noted if the organizations name is listed on those flyers, they have been notified.

Lt. Alex Ahlo reported: a) a written report distributed included crime statistics by beats, and information on the new law relating to pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks. b) Also included was District 7's Power Watch Statistics for May 2006.

Questions, answers and concerns followed:

1. Concerns expressed regarding the pedestrians' right-of-way were that pedestrians' also have to be alert and cautious when stepping into the crosswalks. Lt. Ahlo said it is true that some pedestrians that both pedestrians and motorists have been cited.
2. The pedestrian crossing on King Street between Kalakaua and University avenues are very dangerous for the pedestrians because of the six lanes of crossing. Shiraki expressed that the pedestrians have to be particularly cautious.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Stephanie Kimura reported:

- No main breaks in May.
- General Water Announcements: a) Be a part of the conservation effort. In partnership with BWS, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the Hawaii State Department of Transportation, Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the University of Hawaii; the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services and the Big Island and Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Councils have created the Hawaii Backyard Conservation Handbook. A 20-page color pamphlet available consisting a wealth of knowledge to use in your home, including conservation methods, utilizing native plants and xeriscaping your yard layout, information about managing pests and weeds, managing practices and nutrients in the soil; and becoming more "eco-friendly" in your life. If you wish to have more pamphlets, visit BWS or call the NRCS Office at 438-8600 ext. 3. b) Did You Know? Washing one car can use up to 150 gallons or more of water! Use of a trigger nozzle can save 100 gallons of water, almost ten small fish tanks!

Kimura, in response to Pentecost, clarified that the water mains are cast iron and the service life is 50 years, but is expected to last at least 75 years; dependent on soil condition and erosion factors in the area.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Eric Takamura highlighted on: 1) the City's Operating budget, which passed City Council, and included real property tax credits.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Hayes was confused of the transportation tax and who gets the other half percent. Takamura mentioned that there was a misunderstanding between the County and the State on the collection of the half percent.
2. Orange raised awareness regarding a power point presentation that Martin Okabe, at the last meeting, mentioned he would be happy to do. She felt this Board and the public would be interested in knowing, and requested a presentation for next month; Takamura acknowledged the request. He also indicated that Governor Lingle signed an emergency proclamation.

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3. For the record, Shiraki would like to remind the City again about the delayed left turn traffic signal on 10th and Waialae Avenue.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – No representative was present, however, a written report was available.

Representative Calvin Say – Representative Say distributed his newsletter and highlighted on:

- Kuahea Road repairs - Legislature passed an emergency appropriation bill that earmarked over \$61 million for disaster relief, of which \$5 million awarded to the City to fix the concrete roadway, repair damaged underground utilities, and stabilize the hillside.
- Tax credit for flood victims – Legislature approved HB 957 to provide a tax credit for victims of the flooding during the February 20 to April 9 in Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Honolulu counties.
- Hawaii has been declared a federal disaster relief area that is eligible for federal assistance. A disaster relief center opened this week at the Kahala Mall (former Borders Express location) to service people who might be eligible for assistance.

Although \$5 million was awarded only to fix Kuahea, there were concerns that the dangerous road condition of Waiomao was due to the effects of Kuahea. Acting Chair Orange is hoping relief can come to those living on Waiomao as well. Say noted this was special money only for designated areas; and because of it required major closure of Kuahea due to the major erosion problem.

Senator Les Ihara – Senator Ihara was present earlier, but left the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Acting Chair Orange highlighted on:

Olelo Broadcast Slots: Aired on Channel 54 on the first and third Thursday of every month at 9:00 p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, ext. 133.

Bulky Trash Pick-Up: Take out by the morning of June 21, 2006 (third Wednesday of every month).

Other: None.

A final comment - Hayes wanted to remind Board members to call either the Board chair or NA, if not attending the Board meeting.

There was no other Board business. The remaining of the agenda was deferred and the meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Marie Richardson
Neighborhood Assistant